

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

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1. (Currently Amended) A hydrophilic polyester fiber comprising:
a polyester fiber; and
bearing an aqueous mixed dispersion on the surface of the polyester fiber,
and made hydrophilic by being heated at 35°C or higher, wherein said aqueous mixed dispersion contains (a) a polyester-polyether block copolymer composed of a polyester component and a polyether component, (b) an anionic surfactant, (c) a cationic surfactant, and (d) at least one of a nonionic surfactant and an amphoteric surfactant, and is stable at lower than 35°C
wherein, when heated to 35°C or higher, said aqueous mixed dispersion produces an ion complex and precipitates said block copolymer on the fiber surface, wherein said dispersion adheres to said polyester fiber, making said polyester fiber hydrophilic and precipitates said polyester-polyether block copolymer when its dispersion state is broken by being heated to 35°C or higher.
2. (Currently Amended) The hydrophilic polyester fiber according to claim 1, wherein said polyester-polyether block copolymer comprises:
an aromatic dicarboxylic acid, an aliphatic dicarboxylic acid, or their ester type derivatives as an acid component; and
a polyoxyalkylene glycol with a number average molecular weight of 500 or higher or its derivative as said polyether component, and
wherein said polyester-polyether block copolymer is produced by copolymerizing 5 to 150 wt.% of said polyether component with said polyester component.
3. (Original) The hydrophilic polyester fiber according to claim 2, wherein 0.05 to 2.0 parts by weight of said polyester-polyether block copolymer is supplied to 100 parts by weight of said fiber.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Original) The hydrophilic polyester fiber according to claim 1, wherein said polyester fiber is made of a polyester mainly containing an ethylene terephthalate unit.

6. (Original) The hydrophilic polyester fiber according to claim 1, wherein said polyester fiber is a core-sheathed type or side by side type conjugate of two kinds of polyesters having at least 20°C difference in melting points or softening points.

7-14. (Withdrawn)

15. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a hydrophilic polyester fiber comprising steps of:

applying an aqueous mixed dispersion to the surface of the fiber, wherein said aqueous mixed dispersion comprises (a) a polyester-polyether block copolymer composed of a polyester component and a polyether component, (b) an anionic surfactant, (c) a cationic surfactant, and (d) at least one of a nonionic surfactant and an amphoteric surfactant, wherein said aqueous mixed dispersion is stable at lower than 35°C; and

heating the fiber at to 35°C or higher to make the fiber hydrophilic, thereby forming an ion complex and precipitating said polyester-polyether block copolymer on the fiber surface to provide hydrophilicity excellent in durability when either one of said anionic surfactant and cationic surfactant is mixed with said nonionic surfactant and/or amphoteric surfactant and its dispersion state is broken

~~wherein said aqueous mixed dispersion contains a polyester-polyether block copolymer composed of a polyester component and a polyether component and is stable at lower than 35°C and precipitates said polyester-polyether block copolymer its dispersion state is broken by being heated to 35°C or higher.~~

16. (Currently Amended) The method for producing a hydrophilic polyester fiber according to claim 15, wherein said polyester-polyether block copolymer comprises:

an aromatic dicarboxylic acid, an aliphatic dicarboxylic acid, or their ester type derivatives as an acid component; and

a polyoxyalkylene glycol with a number average molecular weight of 500 or higher or its derivative as said polyether component, and

wherein said polyester-polyether block copolymer is produced by copolymerizing 5 to 150 wt.% of said polyether component with said polyester component.

17-22. (Withdrawn)

23. (New) A hydrophilic polyester fiber comprising:

a polyester fiber; and

a coating on the fiber comprising (a) a polyester-polyether block copolymer comprising a polyester component and a polyether component, (b) an anionic surfactant, (c) a cationic surfactant, and (d) at least one of a nonionic surfactant and an amphoteric surfactant.

24. (New) The hydrophilic polyester fiber according to claim 23, wherein said polyester-polyether block copolymer comprises:

an aromatic dicarboxylic acid, an aliphatic dicarboxylic acid, or their ester type derivatives as an acid component; and

a polyoxyalkylene glycol with a number average molecular weight of 500 or higher or its derivative as said polyether component,

wherein said polyester-polyether block copolymer is produced by copolymerizing 5 to 150 wt.% of said polyether component with said polyester component.

25. (New) The hydrophilic polyester fiber according to claim 24, wherein 0.05 to 2.0 parts by weight of said polyester-polyether block copolymer is supplied to 100 parts by weight of said fiber.

26. (New) The hydrophilic polyester fiber according to claim 23, wherein said polyester fiber is made of a polyester mainly containing an ethylene terephthalate unit.

27. (New) The hydrophilic polyester fiber according to claim 23, wherein said polyester fiber is a core-sheathed type or side by side type conjugate of two kinds of polyesters having at least 20°C difference in melting points or softening points.
28. (New) An aqueous dispersion for coating a fiber, comprising:
a polyester-polyether block copolymer comprising a polyester component and a polyether component;
an anionic surfactant;
a cationic surfactant; and
at least one of a nonionic surfactant and an amphoteric surfactant,
wherein the dispersion produces an ion complex at temperatures greater than 35°C.
29. (New) A hydrophilic polyester fiber prepared by the method of claim 15.
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